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A LONG RANGE PROGRAM OF PUBLIC WORKS

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and

BUSINESS GUIDE

VICTORIA, TEXAS

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The Alamo...

Thermopylae of Texas



THE ALAMO CHAPEL

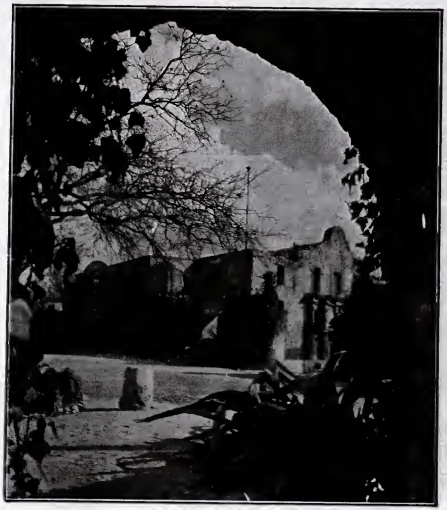
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By

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By
WILLIAM H. OBERSTE

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CONFERENCE REPORT

TEXAS CENTENNIAL OF STATEHOOD

COMMISSION



RETURN TO
LANDOVER CENTER

4845 097

AUSTIN, TEXAS

JANUARY, 1945

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#10

Centennial Twin Goals

Revitalization of Texas rural life and resettlement of soldiers on the land or in productive jobs, as announced by Karl Hoblitzelle as the twin objectives of the Centennial of Texas Statehood Commission, should arouse widespread interest. At a time when postwar planning is occupying the attention of various important groups in the state there could be no finer goal than making farm life more profitable and attractive, either for the present occupants on the land or for our returning veterans.

Instead of rearing some huge monument of stone, steel or concrete, Chairman Hoblitzelle would commemorate the century of Texas statehood by setting in motion a program which would improve the lot of those who till the land. Realizing that the normal drift from farm to cities of rural young folks, if unchecked, will continue to rob the farms of their best stock, the leaders of this rehabilitation movement will seek to lay the foundations for a movement which will bring to our farms the facilities and comforts of city life. It will require the united effort of many existing agencies, working harmoniously together towards a common objective, to achieve the desired results.

Persons sincerely interested in rural welfare often have wondered why, along with the widespread agitation for obliterating the slums of our cities, we long ago have not launched a campaign to wipe out those equally undesirable slums in our farming areas. The twin goals of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission are worthy of careful study and strong support.

Warmth without Weight

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#11

TEXAS CENTENNIAL OF STATEHOOD

Dedicated to job planning for returning
Veterans and Agricultural Rehabilitation

Dallas-Tex. --A Centennial of Statehood for Texas "dedicated to a program of job planning and state-wide rehabilitation of agriculture" was outlined here this week by Karl Hoblitzelle of Dallas, State Chiarman of the Centennial of Statehood Commission, following a conference with Statehood Commissioner A. Garland Adair; Victor H. Schoffelmeyer, Chairman Texas Chemurgic Council; Andrew P. Rollins, Chairman Texas Post-War Planning Commission; and Lt. Col. Paul L. Wakefield, Chief of the Veterans Personnel Division, State Selective Service Headquarters in Austin.

Chairman Hoblitzelle released his statement on the 99th anniversary of Texas' statehood -- December 29th. "If we are to be worthy of the gallant deeds of present-generation Texans now fighting on the far-flung battlefronts of the world, then we must start thinking and working toward the crystallization of a plan which will provide during the next one hundred years of our statehood not only a greater growth in economic stature, but greater facilities and comforts and happiness for our people in the rural areas. Only through the participation of every county and community of the State and the coordination of the efforts of all agencies and organizations may we succeed in such a tremendous and many-phased undertaking. We could find no better vehicle or a more worthy occasion than the centenary of Texas' statehood to visualize and plan for the development of opportunities for our returning veterans."

Touching further upon the rehabilitation of agriculture in Texas, Chairman Hoblitzelle said: "There was a time in America when the village and community life was the very core of both our culture and economy. The land is still there, but the charm and contentment of rural life is not what it was at the turn of the century. It stands to reason that more and more farms will be deserted unless the people who live by the soil are provided with modern conveniences and facilities. The accomplishment of this program will bring jobs and opportunities to our returning veterans."

-30-

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#12

FIRST 100 YEARS AS STATE REVIEWED
AS TEXAS PLANS CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE

Austin, Feb. (Special)--The forty-ninth legislature, now in session, has an honor unique in the roll of legislative gatherings since Texas became a state.

It is the centennial of statehood legislature. The anniversary of the first century since Texas gave up being a republic and entered the union will fall during the biennium for which its members were elected.

Senator _____ _____ of _____ is therefore the Centennial of Statehood member from the _____ Senatorial district; and Representative _____ _____ of _____ is the house member from the _____ district.

A. Garland Adair, general commissioner of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission, today reviewed the events which led up to Texas becoming the twenty-eighth state of the United States of America 100 years ago.

It was only July 4, 1845, he said, that a convention to pass on the question of Texas becoming a state was held by the citizens of the republic here in Austin, then, as now, the capital.

The delegates voted favorably, and an election was called to let the people express their wishes. This election was held in the autumn of 1845.

Another election was held a few weeks later, where the first state officials, including the 21 senators and 65 house members of the first legislature were chosen. Today there are 31 senators and 150 house members. This first group of officials included many distinguished men whose names have come down the long years since that time. J. Pinckney Henderson was elected governor, and Albert C. Horton, lieutenant governor.

The first senate included such figures as Edward Burleson, Thomas F. McKinney, the first banker of Texas and financial agent for the Texas revolutionary government; Jesse Grimes, George T. Wood, who became the second governor, and Joe L. Hogg, father of the famous Governor James Stephen Hogg.

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#13

KNOW TEXAS

"Why Texas should observe its centennial of statehood" is the subject of a state-wide high school essay contest, it was announced February 19th - 98th Texas Statehood Day, by A. Garland Adair, Statehood Commissioner.

Prizes in war bonds will be awarded by Karl Hoblitzelle of Dallas, President of Interstate Circuit, Inc., and Chairman of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission.

The contest is to be held under the sponsorship and direction of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and participation is open to all high school students. Mrs. Henry R. Wofford of San Antonio has been named chairman of the supervising committee, other members of which will be appointed later. Mrs. Walter Prescott Webb, President of the state organization, of Austin reports that the winners will be announced and the awards presented at the next annual convention of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to be held during the month of May.

The essay contest has been endorsed by Dr. L. A Woods, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and will receive the full cooperation of the State Department of Education.

Full information, including the rules of the statehood contest, amount in war bonds, closing date and other details are now being prepared for early distribution to all superintendents of Texas high schools.

"The contest has been approved and arranged in keeping with the Centennial Commission's policy of full support of the 'all out united war effort on the part of Texas" said Commissioner Adair in making his announcement. " A widespread diffusion of knowledge of the history of the state and nation serves the high purpose of stimulating a heart-felt patriotism on the part of the youth of our land who are the world's best hope for the post war era of future peace," he added.

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From the State Headquarters of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission,
612 Norwood Building, Austin, Texas
Release on or after February 18th.

Austin, Texas Feb. 1945, "The first act in the great drama is now performed. The Republic of Texas is no more." -- final words pronounced by President Anson Jones when on the 19th of February, 1846, the Lone Star flag was lowered at the Capitol in Austin, were recalled this week following the proclamation of Governor Coke Stevenson, calling upon the people of Texas to observe the week of February 18th as Statehood Week and February 19th as the 99th Statehood Day.

These words were reviewed by Karl Hoblitzelle, Chairman of the Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission, in reminding Texans that the significant dates of history leading to statehood would be remembered, with all the inspiration they afford, in the revitalization of agriculture and improved conditions in rural life in Texas, which is the major objective for a serious observance of the approaching centennial of statehood.

The Republic of Texas was only two weeks less than ten years old when the Lone Star Flag was lowered and the Stars and Stripes of the American Union were unfurled under Texas skies above the Capitol.

The address of President Jones was immediately followed by that of Pinckney Henderson, first Texas Governor, who began by stating that: "This day and within this very hour has been consummated the great work of annexation," and in conclusion he declared: "We have this day fully entered the Union of the North American States. . . . henceforth the prosperity of our sister States will be our prosperity - - their happiness our happiness - - their quarrels will be our quarrels, and in their wars we will freely participate."

The memoirs of John Salmon Ford, editor of the Texas Democrat, who was present at the ceremonies unparalleled in the history of soverign nations contain

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#15

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

WHEREAS, the nineteenth day of February, 1945, will be the ninety-ninth anniversary of the installation of the State government of Texas, and the actual termination of the government of the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on that date in the year 1846, Anson Jones, President of the Republic of Texas, delivered his valedictory, and Governor J. Pinckney Henderson was inducted into office as the first Governor of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on that date the Flag of the Lone Star Republic was lowered and the Flag of the United States of America raised in its stead:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Coke Stevenson, Governor of the State of Texas, in compliance with the request contained in House Concurrent Resolution Number Twenty-six of the Forty-seventh Legislature, proclaim February 19, 1945 as

TEXAS STATEHOOD DAY

and the week of February 18 - 24, 1945, as

TEXAS STATEHOOD WEEK

and urge our citizens to observe this day and week in a manner to demonstrate to the world that they are doubly proud of their dual heritage, and are ever ready and willing to make the sacrifices necessary to safeguard and preserve the freedom and happiness vouchsafed to them and to their posterity.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this the sixth day of February, A. D., 1945

Coke R. Stevenson

GOVERNOR OF TEXAS

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#16

DO YOU KNOW TEXAS?

A reader of this newspaper can get the answer to any question of fact by writing to A. Garland Adair, Curator of Patriotic Exhibits, Texas Memorial Museum, University Station, Austin, Texas.

ON THE FIFTH COLUMN: We live in God's country, and we are a big nation in population and in territory, still we are too crowded for a fifth column. No one likes to be crowded. I may say that the constitution of our nation was built on a foundation of four columns as follows: In God we trust, the freedom of speech, The freedom of conscience, The freedom of worship. And so, Let us be thankful, to our Heavenly Father, That in our land, We may express ourselves. Criticizing our government officials, In a plain language, Not losing our heads.------Joachim Besen.

Q. May the public schools now organize their work upon a twelve-year basis?

A. Yes. Beginning with the scholastic year 1939-40 the public schools of Texas were permitted to institute the 12-grade system if they wished to do so.

Q. By whom and upon what basis are scholarships awarded honor graduates of the public schools of Texas?

A. The State Legislature has made provision for one scholarship to be awarded by each state institution of higher learning to each fully accredited high school in the state. The scholarship is awarded the boy or girl making the highest academic average for the entire year.

Q. What is the minimum number of teachers employed in a four-year high school system?

A. Seven, including the superintendent, is the minimum number of teachers employed in a four-year high school system.

PARKS---San Antonio is famous the world over for her beautiful parks and playgrounds. She has more than 2000 acres in parks which add to the recreational facilities for the city's guests and residents. San Antonio has 72 beautiful parks and plazas scattered about the city. Brackenridge Park, one of America's beauty spots; covers 320 acres and contains the Witte Museum, Zoo, Japanese Sunken Garden, Sunken Garden Theater, Golf Course, polo field, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, bathing beach, bridle paths and picnic grounds.

"The City of Parks" is a name tourists frequently apply when speaking of San Antonio and it is this feature perhaps more than any other, that expresses San Antonio's individuality. The parks of San Antonio are the most frequented parks in the country. In the North and East, winter usually closes the parks to the public. Not so in San Antonio. -Representative John C. Hoyo

Q. How many school superintendents are there in Texas?

A. There are 1,080 school superintendents, 2470 principals and 159 supervisors.

Q. What member of the Legislature wears a flower every day?

A. Representative John Peter Stubbs of Wortham, Freestone County wears a flower in the lapel of his coat every day, not only while in the Legislature but while at home or elsewhere as well. He prefers a red flower, and may be easily distinguished in a crowd. Genial, good natured and highly esteemed by his associates, the wearing of the flower is not just a hobby to attact attention to himself, but is worn in honor of his sainted mother.

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A. GARLAND ADAIR
COMMISSIONER

JESSE H. JONES
CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

KARL HOBLITZELLE
CHAIRMAN

#17

1945 - - 1946

Texas Centennial of Statehood Commission

612 NORWOOD BUILDING

PAUL L. WAKEFIELD
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WM. LOIS HODGES
TREASURER-EXEC. ASST.

Austin 16, Texas January 4, 1945

Dear Sir:

You are to be congratulated because of the high privilege and great opportunities that are yours to serve your district and your country during these critical months and also during the two years of the Texas Centennial of Statehood.

The Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that December 29, 1845, was the date of admission. However, the First Legislature, composed of twenty-one Senators and sixty-five Representatives, did not convene until February 16, 1846, and three days later, on the 19th, the duties of the Lone Star Republic were transferred to the newly elected members of the State government and its first Governor.

Accordingly, the Forty-seventh Legislature designated 1945 and 1946 Centennial of Statehood years, and authorized the organization of a statehood commission to plan a program for a state-wide observance for submission to a future session -- the period of observance to commence December 29, 1945 and extend through 1946.

That was prior to Pearl Harbor and the Declaration of War.

Consequently the Statehood Commission, yet in its formative stages, has directed its efforts so far to the important matter of cooperating with the all-out war program, and to the co-ordination of the labors of other duly authorized agencies interested in job planning and in a state-wide rehabilitation of agriculture.

Cooperation has been generally extended by representatives of the press, members of historical societies, veterans' organizations, educators, schools, state departments and patriotic citizens the state over. Please note enclosures, which reflect recent steps toward the planned objectives of the Commission.

Progress has been notable, but much work during the preparatory phases of the undertaking remains to be accomplished and will be done in readiness for our report, which will be duly made during the forthcoming session and in which we hope to enlist the cooperation of the people of your district and of all the 254 counties of our great state. In the meantime and during all the period of our service, we invite your counsel and suggestions.

Sincerely yours,

A. Garland Adair

A. Garland Adair, Commissioner

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Among those in the first house of representatives were Edward Clark of Harrison County, who became governor when Sam Houston was put out of that office because he opposed secession in 1861; E. M. Pease of Brazoria County, who later became the first governor to be elected by the Democratic party, and Volney F. Howard of Bexar County, who served as the state's first attorney general.

Counties represented in the first legislature included Bowie, Red River, Fannin, Lamar, Harris, Bastrop, Travis, Austin, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Rusk, Houston, Nacogdoches, Brazos, Robertson, Refugio, Goliad, San Patricio, Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, Colorado, Fayette, Bexar, Gonzales, Jackson, Victoria, Jasper, Sabine, Harrison, San Augustine, Shelby, Milam, Washington, Jefferson and Liberty.

Mr. Adair called attention to the fact that the count on the election first showed another man elected lieutenant governor. Votes straggling in from outlying sections, however, showed finally that Horton had won.

In the meantime the first senate had assembled, and has been called to order by the man whom first returns had shown to have been elected lieutenant governor. When the final verdict was learned a few days later, however, Horton took over the office. Horton served as governor most of the time he was in office, while Governor Henderson took part in the war between this country and Mexico.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that Texas was admitted to the Union December 29, 1845. However, the first legislature did not meet until February 16, 1846. Three days later the government was transferred from the Republic of Texas to the state of Texas.

The centennial celebration, therefore, will start December 29, 1945, and continue through 1946.

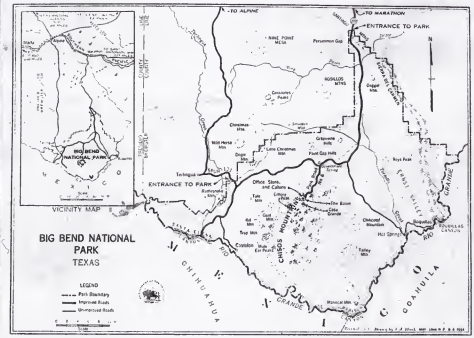
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We Come and Go

A Handbook for The Big Bend National Park

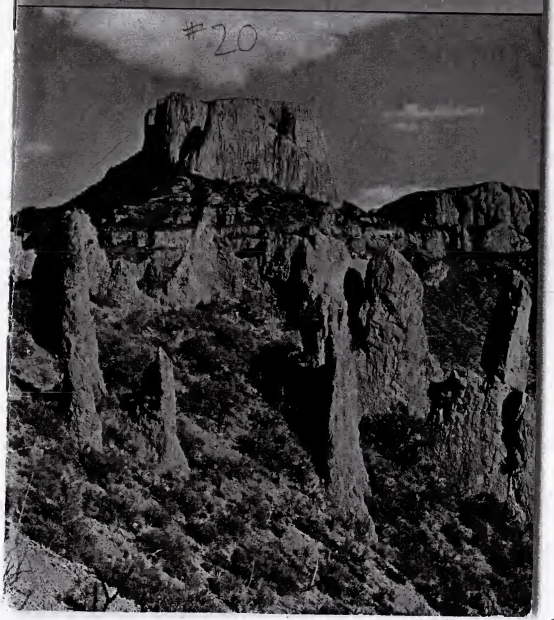

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Dodson
Boot Canyon
Juniper Canyon
Pine Canyon
Laguna Meadow
Blue Creek Canyon
Green Gulch
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Lajitas Mesa
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BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

TEXAS

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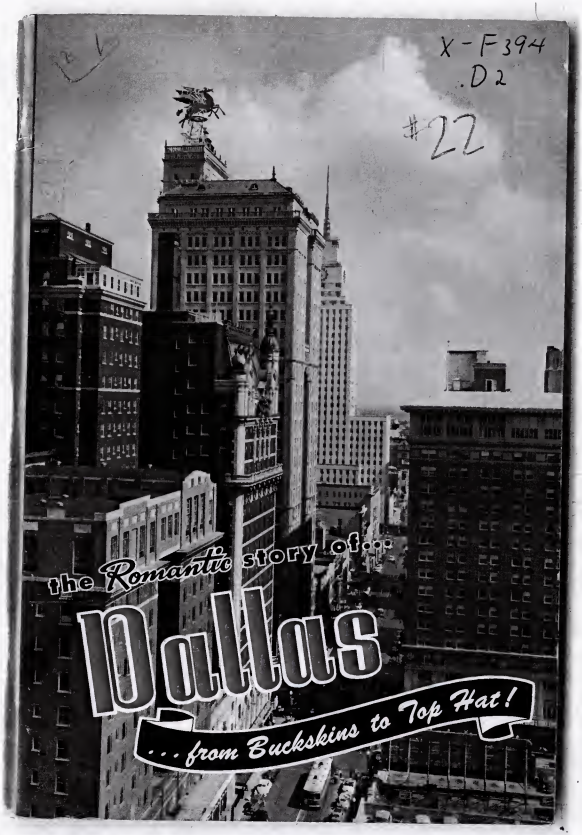
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Capital City of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas



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WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TEXAS CITY, TEXAS?

A Report on Your Town

Published by

The League of Women Voters

"The purpose of the League of Women Voters of the United States shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government."

This booklet is published in the hope that citizens of Texas City may become better acquainted with our town's government, activities, and problems. We wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to many persons, particularly Mr. Kenneth Thomas-Nunn, City Secretary, for information making this survey possible.

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THE SHIP EXPLOSIONS
AT
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS
ON
APRIL 16 AND 17, 1947
AND
THEIR RESULTS

GEORGE ARMISTEAD, JR.
CHEMICAL ENGINEER
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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